

Ethics Matters

Office of State Ethics

October 1, 2010



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Resources for Ethics and
Management



It's the LAW!

What's ETHICS got to do with it?

- “So I wouldn’t even go to the restroom without a lawyer saying I could.” – Tom DeLay
- “No one would say he is ‘the sharpest knife in the drawer.’” –Blagojevich defense attorney
- “Devious and reprehensible? Certainly. Illegal? No.” – critic of Wall Street behavior



It's the LAW!

What's ETHICS got to do with it?

- “Principles aren’t of much account anyway except at election time. After that you hang them up and let them season.” --Mark Twain
- “It is not enough to aspire to get through the day without being indicted.” - Richard Breeden, former SEC chair



It's the LAW!

What's ETHICS got to do with it?

- The challenge: Laws to reinforce Ethics can “dumb down” ethics to legal technicalities
- "They're trying to do the right thing. But it was apparent to me that they were guided by their conscience and not the law." – comment in the press about a CEAB decision

KEEP LOOKING —
I JUST KNOW THE RIGHT
THING TO DO IS IN
HERE SOMEWHERE...



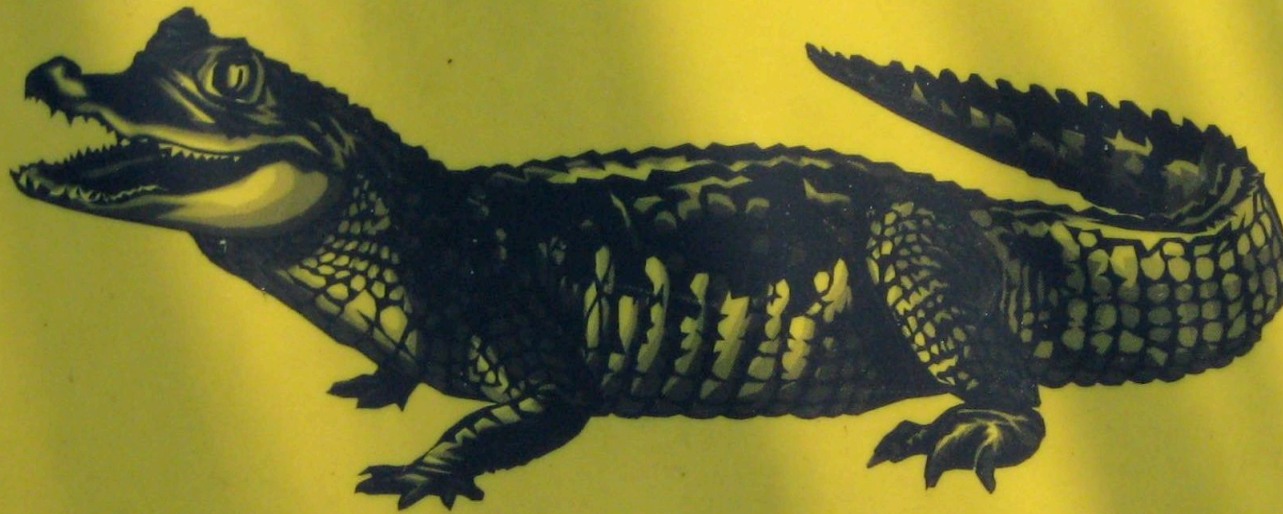
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RESOURCES FOR ETHICS AND MANAGEMENT

HERE'S THE ETHICS STUFF.
IT'S ALL THERE - JUST SIGN
ON THE LAST PAGE.



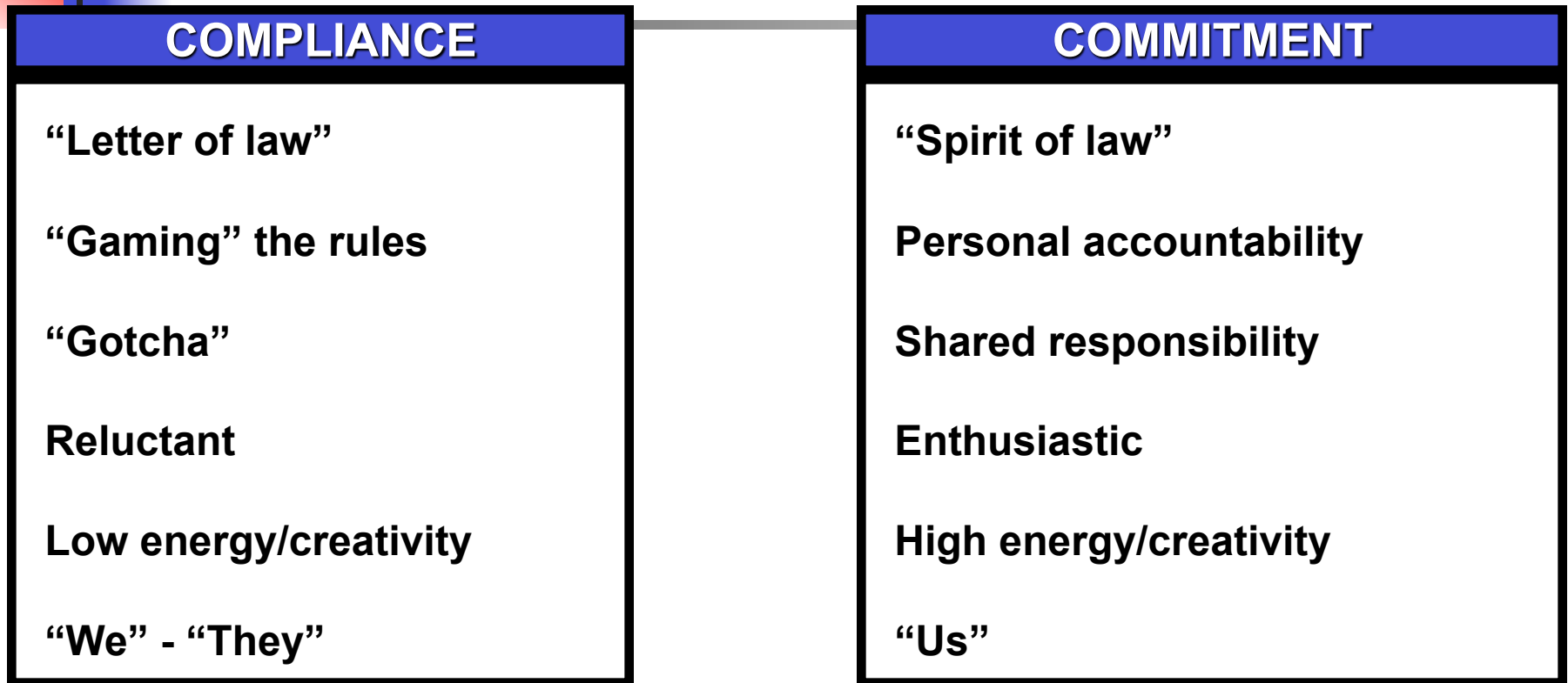
Alligators



rs are an important and natural part of the freshwater ecosystems along the South Carolina coast, and one of the most exciting forms of wildlife. Alligators and people can coexist together peacefully if we follow a few simple rules:

- ▶ **Never feed alligators!** This “trains” them to think of people as food. It is also illegal.

Moving from Compliance to Commitment





Ethics Strategies

Compliance AND Commitment

COMPLIANCE

- Law, policies and rules
- Inform, enforce, insist
- What and How
- Avoid costs, fix problems
- “Boundaries”
- Staff driven

COMMITMENT

- Ethics, values and judgment
- Educate, consult, support
- Why
- Add value, anticipate problems
- “Beliefs”
- Management driven



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- Ethics? Or Law? Why I joined the CEAB
- Growing Pains and Maturity
- What you see: specific cases, politics and personalities
- What you don't see: guidance and good faith by State employees

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What's Easy to See

Website, Newsletters, Press Releases

Public Settlements - 50

**Disclosures – 1600
lobbyists, 2700 statements
of financial interests**

**Controversial rulings,
public concerns (e.g.,
vacant appointments)**

What We Often DON'T See

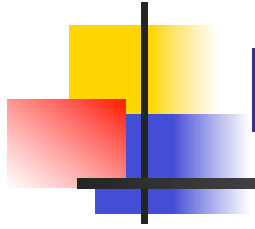
Website, Newsletters, Press Releases

**In-person training sessions
– 58 events, 2000 attendees**

Advisory opinions – 11

Staff opinions – 1050

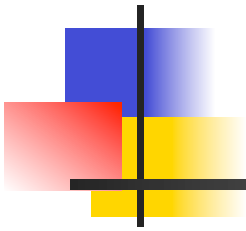
**Phone calls – 26/day
average**

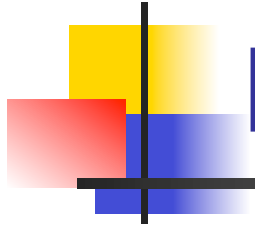


It's Ethics AND the Law

- “Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.” - Samuel Johnson
- “Bad apples” inevitable but easier: catch them and punish them
- “Good folks” strive daily to do the right thing and mostly you do

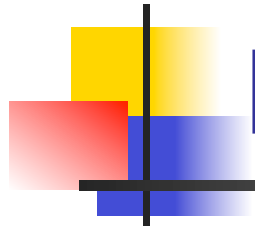
SO, why do YOU
need the OSE?





Moral Blinders

- Rationalization: explaining away
- Inattention: out of sight, out of mind
- Hubris: over confidence
- Group Think: what, me worry?



Breaking through our Blinders

- Paying attention
- Self-awareness: a real mirror test
- Imagination and reflection



Breaking through our Blinders

- Paying attention
- Self-awareness: a real mirror test
- Imagination and reflection
- Character and courage



What OSE Can Do

- Remind, reinforce and inform
- Counsel on “judgment calls”
- Enforce when necessary



What OSE Can NOT Do – It's YOUR Job

- Ensure responsible actions every day, every time

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. It's not!”

--Dr. Seuss